



For Release: Thursday, June 25, 2015

15-1182-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/midwest

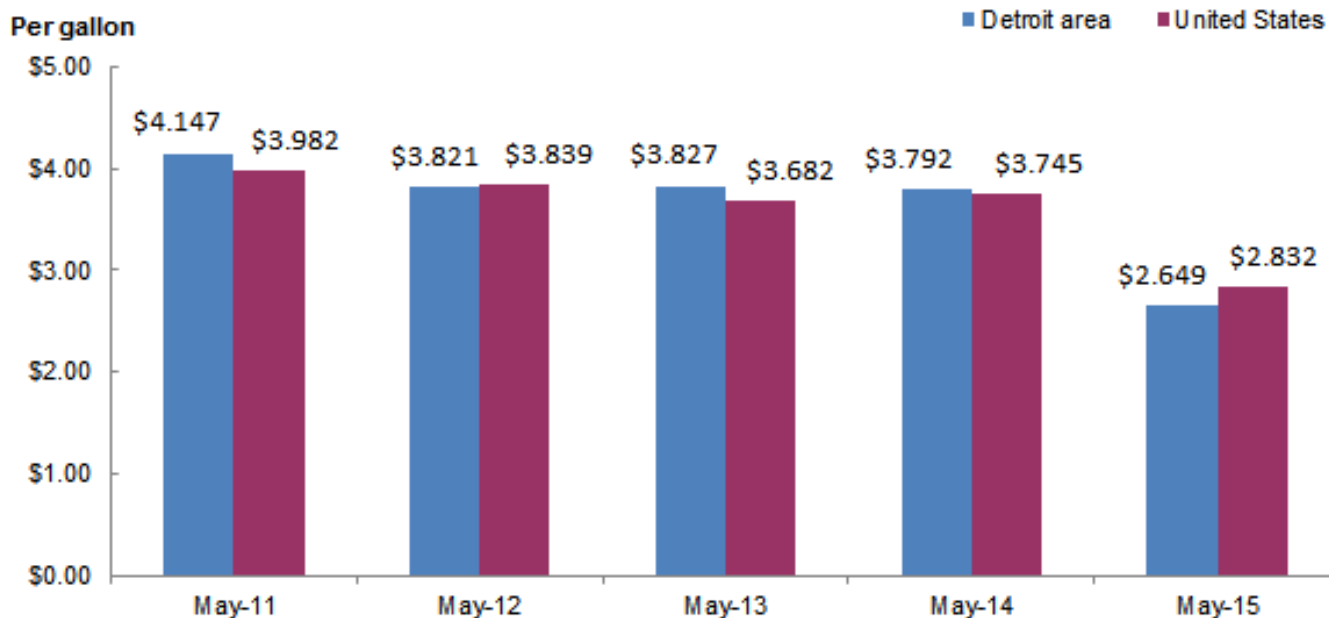
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

Average Energy Prices, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint — May 2015

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.649 a gallon in the Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint area in May 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were down \$1.143 compared to last May when they averaged \$3.792 per gallon. Detroit area households paid an average of 14.3 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in May 2015, down from 14.8 cents per kWh in May 2014. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at 78.5 cents per therm in May was down from 88.2 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.649 a gallon, costs for gasoline in the Detroit area were 6.5 percent lower than the national average of \$2.832 a gallon in May 2015. In the previous three years (2012-2014) in May, the price for a gallon of gasoline in the Detroit area had been comparable to the national average. (See [chart 1.](#))

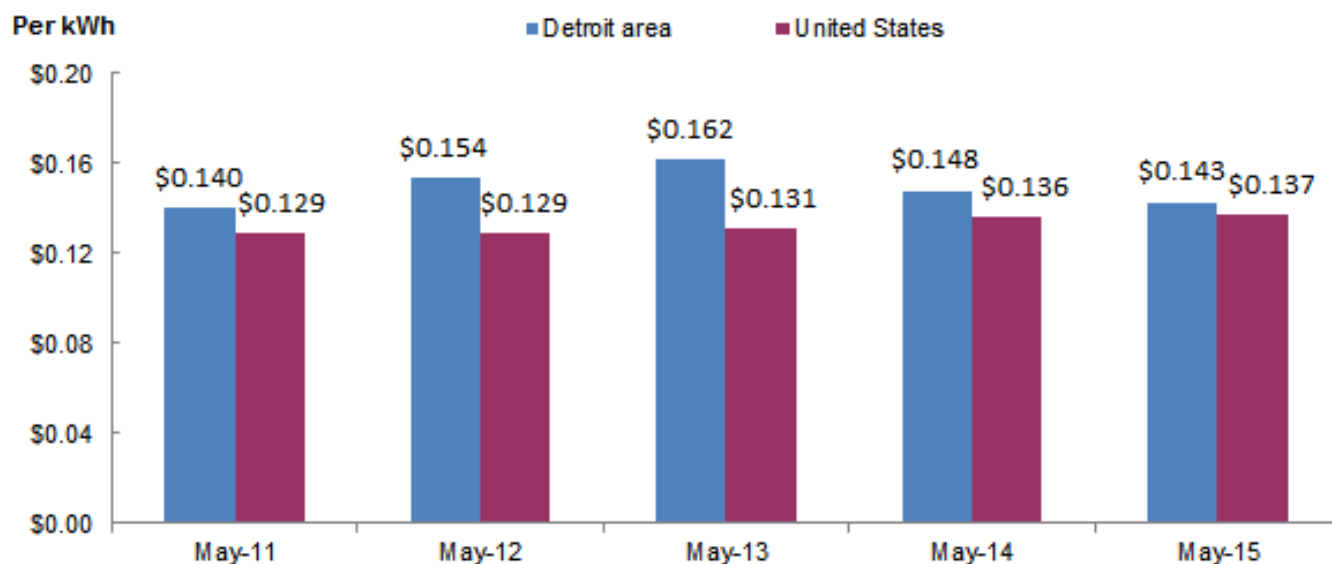
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, 2011–2015 (as of May)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 14.3 cents per kWh that Detroit households paid for electricity in May 2015 was 4.4 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.7 cents per kWh. In the previous four years (2011-2014) in May, electricity costs in Detroit were higher by 8.5 percent or more compared to the national average. (See [chart 2.](#))

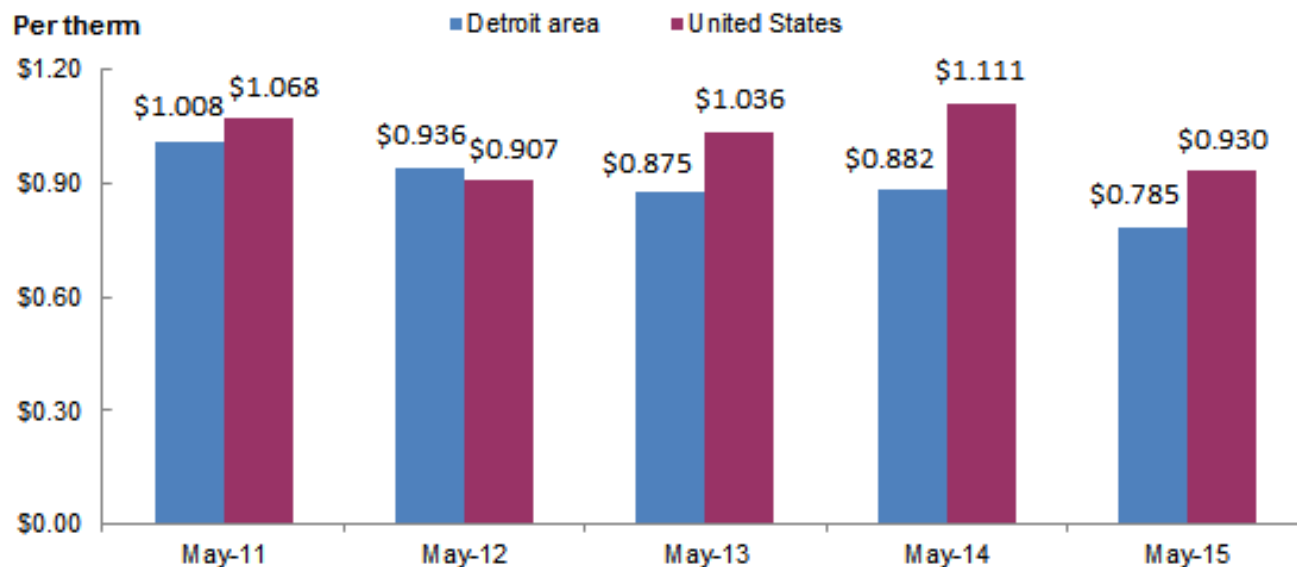
Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, 2011–2015 (as of May)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Detroit area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 78.5 cents per therm in May 2015, 15.6 percent below the national average of 93.0 cents per therm. In the two previous years, utility (piped) gas prices in Detroit were also below the national average by 20.6 percent (May 2014) and 15.5 percent (May 2013), respectively. (See [chart 3.](#))

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, 2011–2015 (as of May)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, Mich.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Genesee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties in Michigan.

Historical average energy prices for the U.S. and select metropolitan areas are available at www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/averageenergyprices_selectedareas_table.htm.

The Consumer Price Index for June 2015 is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 17, 2015.

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint and the United States, May 2014 – May 2015, not seasonally adjusted

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Detroit area	United States	Detroit area	United States	Detroit area	United States
2014						
May.....	\$3.792	\$3.745	\$0.148	\$0.136	\$0.882	\$1.111
June.....	3.967	3.750	0.153	0.143	0.890	1.088
July.....	3.798	3.690	0.153	0.143	0.889	1.093
August.....	3.562	3.540	0.153	0.143	0.882	1.060
September.....	3.552	3.463	0.153	0.141	0.921	1.058
October.....	3.240	3.241	0.152	0.136	0.915	1.033
November.....	2.984	2.945	0.149	0.134	0.920	1.035
December.....	2.583	2.618	0.149	0.135	0.919	1.060
2015						
January.....	1.955	2.170	0.143	0.138	0.920	1.036
February.....	2.259	2.308	0.143	0.138	0.881	1.007
March.....	2.419	2.544	0.143	0.136	0.856	0.985
April.....	2.464	2.545	0.143	0.137	0.793	0.947
May.....	2.649	2.832	0.143	0.137	0.785	0.930